

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 15 and 22 are currently pending in the application. Applicants have canceled claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 14, 23, 24, 37 and 38, herein. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 15 and 22, herein. The support for the amendments to claims 1 and 2, can be found, for example, in claim 14 as previously presented. The support for the amendment to claim 22, can be found, for example, in claims 24 and 38 as previously presented. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 7, 8, 22, 23 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,561,122 ("Pettit") in light of U.S. Patent No. 5,919,815 ("Bradley"). Applicants have canceled claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 14, 23, 24, 37 and 38, herein. Thus, this rejection is moot as it applies to these claims. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 15 and 22, herein. Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 15 and 22, as amended, are not obvious over Pettit in light of Bradley.

The Examiner stated on page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action that claims 14, 15, 24 and 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to take on all of the limitations of claim 14 and any intervening claims, while claim 22, has been amended to take on all the limitations of claims 24 and 38 and any intervening claims. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2 and 22 are non-obvious over Pettit over Bradley. Thus, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 14, 15, 24 and 38 because they were dependent upon rejected base claims. Claims 14, 24 and 38 have been canceled herein. Thus this objection is moot as it applies to these claims.


Applicants have amended claim 15 to depend from claims 1 or 2. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 2 are allowable, thus claim 15 no longer depends from a rejected base claim. Applicants submit that this objection is overcome.

CONCLUSION

A prompt allowance is respectfully requested. If any discussion regarding this Amendment is desired, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned at the number given below, and is assured of full cooperation in progressing the application to allowance.

While Applicant believes that no additional fees are needed, the USPTO is authorized to charge or credit the undersigned Deposit Account No. **50-0311**, Customer No. **30623**, Reference No. **18217-505**, for any additional fees that are required.

Respectfully submitted,



Ivor R. Elrifi, Ph.D., Reg. No. 39,529
Attorney for Applicant
Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris,
Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
Telephone 617/542-6000
Customer No. 30623

Dated: September 7, 2005